

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

IB2004/051583

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01R33/389

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 294 913 B1 (R.S. HINKS ET AL) 25 September 2001 (2001-09-25) cited in the application column 5, line 1 - column 7, line 13 figure 3	1-18
X	EP 1 178 327 A (GE MED SYS GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY) 6 February 2002 (2002-02-06) column 2, line 52 - column 3, line 17 column 6, line 45 - column 7, line 41 column 8, line 6 - column 9, line 54 figure 4	1-18
X	EP 1 143 258 A (GE MED SYS GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY) 10 October 2001 (2001-10-10) column 1, line 38 - column 2, line 54 column 3, line 35 - column 5, line 2	1-18
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/01/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 07, 3 July 2003 (2003-07-03) & JP 2003 061927 A (GE MEDICAL SYSTEMS GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY CO LLC), 4 March 2003 (2003-03-04) abstract -----	1, 11, 15
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 05, 3 May 2002 (2002-05-03) & JP 2002 017706 A (HITACHI MEDICAL CORP), 22 January 2002 (2002-01-22) abstract -----	1, 11, 15

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EP 1178327	A	06-02-2002	US 6507190 B1 EP 1178327 A2 JP 2002143127 A	14-01-2003 06-02-2002 21-05-2002
EP 1143258	A	10-10-2001	JP 3513076 B2 JP 2001299720 A CN 1336557 A EP 1143258 A2 US 2001028249 A1	31-03-2004 30-10-2001 20-02-2002 10-10-2001 11-10-2001
JP 2003061927	A	04-03-2003	NONE	
JP 2002017706	A	22-01-2002	NONE	